

**For Immediate Release:**

## **Board of Probation and Parole Prepares to Implement GPS Sex Offender Monitoring Program**

NASHVILLE, TN - The Board of Probation and Parole (BOPP) in Tennessee is preparing to implement the largest, to date, Global Positioning System (GPS) for sex offenders in the U.S. and perhaps internationally. Beginning in September, the satellite-based GPS project will allow up to approximately 650 sex offenders, all under probation and parole supervision in Tennessee, to be monitored at one time. The pilot program made possible by a 2.5 million dollar appropriation from the legislature will be piloted in select counties throughout Tennessee. These counties include: Shelby, Davidson, Knox, Sullivan, Bradley, McMinn, Polk, Rutherford, Cannon, Montgomery and Sumner.

The Board of Probation and Parole, through a competitive bid process, has selected iSECUREtrac Corporation to provide the equipment, training and monitoring for the GPS program. BOPP will also establish a centralized monitoring station to collect data from iSECUREtrac and determine appropriate field action by BOPP Officers and/or law enforcement. The centralized monitoring station will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The one-year pilot program will be independently evaluated by the Criminal Justice Department at Middle Tennessee State University and regular reports will be made to the legislature regarding the program's progress and results. After the one-year pilot period, the legislature will decide to continue, increase, decrease, or discontinue funding for the monitoring program.

According to BOPP Executive Director, Bo Irvin, "The GPS tracking system will add an important tool to the resources available to our supervising Officers". Mr. Irvin also states, "We do not want the public to be led to believe that GPS will prevent sex offenses but GPS experiences in the other states do lead us to feel that it will prove to be a strong deterrent to re-offending and will lead to improved public safety, enhanced ability for Probation and Parole Officers to manage sex offenders in the community, and to provide fast analysis and response to offender compliance. BOPP is pleased to be a part of this relatively new and innovative technological approach to monitoring sex offenders."

iSECUREtrac is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska and combines state of the art GPS tracking equipment with iSECUREtrac's web based monitoring and notification system to deliver 24/7 access to offender location, movement and compliance.

The Board of Probation and Parole is an independent State Commission governed by a seven member Board, all appointed by the Governor. The Board is charged with the responsibility for deciding which felony offenders will be granted parole and released from incarceration to community-based supervision. Along with the supervision of those granted parole, the Board is also responsible for supervising felony offenders who are placed on probation by Criminal Courts. The Board of Probation and Parole is responsible for the supervision of over 49,000 offenders in Tennessee.

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